



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 5, 2004

**SIX MEXICAN NATIONALS PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES
IN CONNECTION WITH BREWSTER COUNTY CARJACKING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Alpine, Texas, six Mexican Nationals have pled guilty to federal charges in connection with a January carjacking incident at a ranch in Brewster County.

The six defendants appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Durwood Edwards and pled guilty as follows: 27-year-old Cipriano Flores-Morales of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila pled guilty to carjacking, possession/brandishing of a firearm during a crime of violence, and transporting illegal aliens under circumstances endangering human life; 23-year-old Ricardo Morales-Herrera of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila, pled guilty to carjacking and to possession/brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence; 24-year-old Manuel Antonio Torres-Hernandez, 23-year-old Jose Alejandro Delgado-Ruiz (both of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila) as well as 22-year-old Sergio Garza-Martinez and 21-year-old Santos Baldemar Marines-Galvan (both of Melchor Muzquiz, Coahila) pled guilty to carjacking and to conspiracy to commit carjacking.

According to court documents, on January 16, 2004, the defendants walked to the Weyerts Ranch in Brewster County with the intent to steal a car. They broke into a residence, took possession of two firearms (a .22 caliber rifle and a 20 gauge shotgun), assaulted the residents once they arrived and held the two victims at gun point and knife point. The defendants then took a 1984 Ford Crown Victoria belonging to the victims and fled the ranch with Flores-Morales at the wheel. During the course of their flight, a rupture in the gas tank occurred due to the extreme weight of the vehicle combined with the rough terrain. The defendants were forced to abandon the vehicle approximately 9 miles from the ranch after gas fumes filled the car. Authorities arrested the defendants during a subsequent four-day manhunt.

As a result of their guilty pleas, Flores-Morales faces between 7 and 42 years in federal prison; Morales-Herrera, between 7 and 22 years in federal prison; and, the remaining defendants, up to 20 years in federal prison. United States District Judge Robert Junell will sentence the defendants following the completion of a pre-sentence report by the United States Probation Office.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the hard work and determination of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Brewster County Sheriff's Office in bringing these individuals to justice. This case is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Tromblay.

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